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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1940.

The Minister of Health has requested that interim reports only should be submitted for the year 1940, and should be confined to essential matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted. The delay in sending out this Report is due to the late receipt of the statistics from the Registrar General.

The Crude Death Rate is 13.44 and this figure when adjusted gives a Corrected Death Rate of 11.69 as compared with 9.72 for the previous year and with 14.3 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 33.13 which is considerably lower than that for the country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In my Annual Report for 1939 I reported that 91 per cent of the child population, one to 15 years of age, had been immunised. During the year 1940 every effort has been made to induce parents who had not accepted immunisation for their children to agree to the procedure, and, 553 children were immunised under the Council's scheme.

Parents have the choice of taking their children to their own doctor or they can be immunised by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer, at the Schools or at specially arranged Clinics. Every parent on the child's first birthday receives a letter from myself pointing out how necessary it is for every child to be immunised and this is followed up by a visit from the District Nurse.

In certain cases where the parent still refuses, visits are paid by Dr. Duke or myself and it has been found that

this procedure gives good results. Where the parent has difficulty in attending the Clinic the inoculations are carried out in the homes.

Parents who have not accepted are advised by myself at school medical inspections and many parents accept when approached in this way.

At the end of the year the percentage immunised was approximately the same as in the previous year. The prophylactic used was T.A.F. and reactions following the injections were rare. A Schick test is carried out by Dr. Duke on all children three to six months after the final injection and it was found that 98 per cent of the children were Schick negative. Children found to be Schick positive are given a further course of injections.

With regard to children evacuated to this district, every parent received a letter from myself with an acceptance form attached and at the end of the year approximately 64 per cent of these children were immunised by Dr. Duke. During the present year arrangements have been made for the parents residing in the area, who have not accepted, to be visited and those living in London to be visited by a representative of the London County Council.

During the year 1940 not a single local child developed Diphtheria, and only one evacuated child, whose parents had not accepted immunisation, developed this disease.

CHILDREN EVACUATED TO THE DISTRICT.

Evacuated children suffering from minor ailments are treated at specially convened clinics in the villages by the District Nurses.

Children suffering from extensive impetigo, scabies or other conditions making it undesirable for them to remain in their billets are admitted to an Evacuation Hospital situated at Burgess Hill, and which serves the needs of this District and also of the Cuckfield Urban District and of the Burgess Hill Urban District.

There are 32 beds at this Hospital and at times all have been occupied. The nursing staff comprises a Matron, two probationers for day duty and one for night duty, all paid according to Civil Nursing Reserve rates, and in addition there are a number of voluntary helpers from the British Red Cross Society. The visiting Physician is Dr. W.H.R. McCarter.

Children are only admitted on the recommendation of a general practitioner, the final decision as to the desirability of admitting particular cases resting with your Medical Officer of Health.

The total number of children admitted during the year was 275 and the following were the various complaints for which the children were admitted:-

Scabies	123
Impetigo	32
Other skin diseases ...	37
Convalescent following operation	17
Otorrhoea	13
Enuresis, observation for.	10
Bronchitis	6
Other minor illnesses ...	37

In addition to the above, 208 children were treated as out-patients for various skin diseases which did not necessitate their admission to Hospital.

Children suffering from enuresis are sent to a hostel, situated at Hurstpierpoint, where there is accommodation for nine children.

I am indebted to Mr. Jones, the Senior Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation in the administration of the Health Services and to the other members of the Staff and in particular to Miss Everson my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

W. B. Stott

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1940.

Area of District in acres	74,360
Population estimated to middle of year	29,390 X
Rateable Value	£200,411
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£827.9.3. <i>Summed</i>
Density of Population (persons per acre)	0.40
Number of Houses	7,829 X
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	10.68
Death Rate per 1,000 population	13.44
Infantile Mortality Rate	33.13

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

<u>Cause of Death</u>							<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	...	...	...	...	4	6
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	.	...	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis	.	...	...	...	...	-	-
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph. (Male) uterus (Female)						2	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	...	...	...	...	...	3	6
15.	Cancer of breast ..	...	...	...	...	...	-	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	24	26
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
18.	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions	...	...	...	...	...	23	28
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	52	47
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system.	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
21.	Bronchitis ..	...	...	...	...	...	7	12
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	7	9
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years .	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
27.	Other digestive diseases.	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
32.	Con.mal birth inj. infant.dis.	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
34.	Road traffic accident	...	...	...	...	...	2	-
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	11	7
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	19	21
Totals ..							<u>189</u>	<u>206</u>

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1940 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year	
England and Wales	14.6	0.55	14.3	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.32	-	4.6	55	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	16.0	0.64	15.8	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.29	-	5.9	61	
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15.7	0.55	12.8	0.00	-	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.30	-	4.4	54	
London ...	13.7	0.44	17.8	0.00	-	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.18	-	5.8	50	
Cuckfield Rural District	10.68	0.30	13.44 #11.69	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.61	6.02	33.13	

* Corrected Death Rate.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows:- per 1,000 Total Births

Puerperal Sepsis	0.52	Others	1.64	Total	2.16
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The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Rural District are as follows: ... Nil Nil Nil

HOUSING.

During the year 2 houses, the subject of Demolition Orders, were demolished by the owners, and a further 2 houses were rendered fit in accordance with the undertaking accepted by the Council.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

During the year a Ministry of Health enquiry was held to consider the proposed sewerage schemes for the parishes of Bolney, Horsted Keynes and the northern portion of Three Bridges.

The Ministry decided that the latter scheme be proceeded with and help given to Horsted Keynes in the form of cesspool emptying. Owing to the difficulty in obtaining contractors to carry out the work, the Three Bridges Scheme has not been proceeded with.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year, 302 inspections were carried out to farms and dairies and 73 samples were taken for bacterial count.

Thirty-three samples were taken for biological test, all being negative.

Works were carried out on the reconditioning of cowsheds and dairies.

Other Foods.

During the year 337 visits were made to food preparing places.

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year a considerable amount of time was spent on investigating sources of water for small emergency water supplies.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Seventeen samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination from public supplies situated in this district. Two of the samples taken from the Fulking Village Supply were found to contain coliform organisms and it was resolved to chlorinate this supply.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	44	38	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	5	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	-
Pneumonia	11	2	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-
Measles	208	9	-
Whooping Cough	21	1	-

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Paratyphoid Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Totals
Albourne	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	7
Ardingly	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	37
Balcombe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	28
Bolney	4	-	-	-	1	2	-	19	-	26
Cuckfield Rural	2	-	1	3	-	3	-	8	-	17
Horsted Keynes	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	6	1	10
Hurstpierpoint	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Keymer	5	-	-	1	1	3	-	59	1	70
Lindfield Rural	2	1	1	-	-	2	1	5	-	12
Pyecombe	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Slaugham	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	4
West Hoathly	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	8
Worth	18	-	1	1	1	-	-	42	14	77
Totals	44	2	5	5	3	11	1	208	21	300

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	6	3	17	5	2	5	3	-	-	44
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	2	1	1	11
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	1	5	9	7	9	91	68	11	7	-	-	-	208
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	4	14	2	-	-	-	-	1	21
Totals	2	5	12	14	17	125	76	14	22	5	4	4	300

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1940.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	1	2	4	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	3	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	3	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
55 - 65	1	3	-	-	-	2	1	-
65 and over	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-
Totals	9	14	3	6	4	6	1	-